REMARKS

The specification has been amended to incorporate cross-reference to related applications from which the instant application claims priority. The priority claim was made in the Application Data Sheet filed with the application, and support for this amendment is contained therein.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all outstanding rejections have been addressed by this submission and that all the claims are in condition for allowance. If discussion of any amendment or remark made herein would advance this important case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned as soon as convenient.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the present application is respectfully considered in condition for allowance. An early reconsideration and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

Applicants respectfully submit that no extension of time is required for the Amendment and accompanying materials. If, however, a petition for an extension of time is required, then the Examiner is requested to treat this as a conditional petition for an extension of time and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 for the appropriate fee. Although it is not believed that any additional fee (in addition to the fee concurrently submitted) is required to consider this submission, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 should any fee be deemed necessary.

Dated: December 12, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By _Kathryn A. P. Piffat, Ph.D._
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